

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL POZNAN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 7214

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, PL, SU

SUBJECT: POLAND CONTINUES DEFENSIVE LINE ON TIES WITH WEST

REF: (A) MOSCOW 15556; (B) WARSAW 6889

1. PUBLIC PRAISE OF THE SOVIET UNION AT THE KATOWICE (REF A)
AND WARSAW PROVINCIAL PZPR CONFERENCES AND CONTINUED PRESS
COMMENTARY ABOUT POLAND'S TRADE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE SOVIET
UNION AND CEMA, ON THE ONE HAND, AND CAPITALISTS COUNTRIES, ON
THE OTHER, REFLECT A CONTINUED DEFENSIVE TONE, AS
REPORTED IN REF B. CONVERSATIONS WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE
POLES TEND TO CONFIRM OUR VIEW THAT SUCH DEFENSIVENESS
MAY BE A RESPONSE TO MOSCOW'S EXPRESSIONS OF DIS-
PLEASURE OR CONCERN AT THE PACE OF POLISH ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF REDUCED
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DEPENDENCY ON THE SOVIET UNION ARISING FROM THE GROWTH OF

POLISH TRADE WITH THE WEST. IT SEEMS CLEAR, THROUGH, THAT THE GOP INTENDS TO CONTINUE ITS CURRENT POLICY OF COMBINING GREATER ECONOMIC INTEGRATION WITH CEMA AND COOPERATION WITH THE WEST. IN THE SUCCINCT VIEW OF A POLITYKA STAFFER, THE LINK WITH CEMA PROVIDES STABILITY WHILE THE ONE WITH THE WEST OFFERS PROGRESS.

2. SPEAKING TO THE WARSAW PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 30, PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ ECHOED THE GENERAL LINE OF FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK'S EARLIER REMARKS IN KATOWICE, STRESSING THAT POLISH-SOVIET TIES ARE "DEEPER, BROADER, AND RICHER THAN EVER BEFORE". IN THE PUBLISHED TEXTS OF BOTH SPEECHES, THERE WAS A NOTICEABLE ABSENCE OF THE USUAL LANGUAGE ABOUT FURTHERING TIES WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES ON THE BASIS OF DETENTE. THE BALANCE WAS STRUCK, HOWEVER, BY A TWO-PART SERIES IN ZYCIE WARSZAWY (OCTOBER 30 AND 31) HAILING POLAND'S BROADENING OF COOPERATION WITH ALL COUNTRIES. A KEY PASSAGE OBSERVED THAT, WITHOUT NEGLECTING COOPERATION WITHIN CEMA, POLAND HAS OPENED A "BROAD WINDOW" ON THE WORLD AND IS CONVINCED THAT THIS CONTRIBUTES TO STRENGTHENING ITS OWN PROSPERITY AND TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STABILIZATION.

3. A KNOWLEDGEABLE POLISH JOURNALIST TELLS US HE HAS HEARD RECENTLY THAT THE SOVIETS ARE UNHAPPY WITH POLAND'S SUCCESS IN PURSUING A "NEO-ROMANIAN" COURSE IN ECONOMIC POLICY, BUT HE DOUBTED THAT THEIR CONCERN IS VERY SERIOUS. ARGUING THAT THE REFINERY RECENTLY OPENED IN GDANSK TO PROCESS MIDDLE EASTERN CRUDE REPRESENTS A DEGREE OF OIL INDEPENDENCE, HE CLAIMED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD APPROVED THAT PROJECT WITHOUT REALIZING IT WOULD BE COMPLETED SO SOON AND ARE NOW CHAGRINED THAT THEY DID SO. IN ANY CASE, HE AFFIRMED THAT POLAND INTENDS TO CONTINUE SEEKING GOOD TRADE TIES WITH THE WEST AND THAT THE SOVIETS SHOULD REALIZE THIS CAN BENEFIT THEM, TOO, FOR EXAMPLE, THROUGH EVENTUAL TRANSFERS OF TECHNOLOGY.

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4. AS IF FURTHER TO REASSURE MOSCOW, THE PRESS GAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO A SESSION OF THE MAIN BOARD OF THE POLISH-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY (TPP-R) ON OCTOBER 29 AT WHICH ITS CHAIRMAN, POLITBIURO MEMBER JAN SZYDLAK, PROCLAIMED THAT POLISH-SOVIET ECONOMIC COOPERATION LIES AT THE BASE OF "ALL POLISH SOCIAL-ECONOMIC SUCCESSSES." SOVIET VICE PREMIER IVAN ARKHIPOV'S VISIT HAS ALSO SERVED TO DRAMATIZE SOVIET ASSISTANCE IN THE

CONSTRUCTION OF THE "KATOWICE" STEEL MILL, A NEW
SYMBOL OF POLISH-SOVIET COOPERATION.

5. COMMENT: THE CONTINUED EMPHASIS ON THESE THEMES
ALMOST CERTAINLY REFLECTS TENSIONS THAT HAD DEVELOPED
BETWEEN WARSAW AND MOSCOW WE BELIEVE THE POLES ARE
DETERMINED TO PERSIST IN THEIR PRESENT COURSE OF
EXPANDING ECONOMIC TIES WITH THE WEST, WHILE REMAINING
FAITHFUL TO THEIR SOCIALIST PARTNERS. THESE CURRENT
PUBLIC STATEMENTS THUS APPEAR DESIGNED TO HELP ALLAY
CONCERN IN MOSCOW AND OFF-SET POSSIBLE ENVY IN SOME
OTHER CEMA CAPITALS. END COMMENT.
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